Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 15, lines 12 - 19 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- An overview of the serialization techniques of preferred embodiments will now be described. (Corresponding deserialization techniques will then be described.) As shown in Fig. 2, an intermediary data structure 210 is created as a representative of the original object 200 during serialization to [[atext]] a text stream in XML format 220, and this intermediary data structure 210 is called a *SerializedObject*. The classes used for this intermediary data structure in preferred embodiments are illustrated in Fig. 8, and will now be described. (This intermediary data structure and its classes are also used in preferred embodiments for deserialization, as has been noted with reference to Fig. 4.) --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 41, line 16 and carries over to Page 42, line 8 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned and co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/457199 (filed June 9, 2003), titled "Maintaining Multiple Valid Concurrent Serialized Object Versions", discloses techniques for concurrently maintaining serialized objects that were created from more than one version of a class definition. According to preferred embodiments of this commonly-assigned invention application, a component programmatically maps and enforces multiple valid versions of stream-unique version identifiers for a collection of class definitions (such as the classes of a software product that is undergoing change from one product version to another). This component programmatically detects when an object's stream-unique version identifier value does